

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**  
**DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PASSWORD**  
**PROTECTING A BOOT DEVICE**

5           A data processing system and method of password protecting the boot of a data  
processing system are disclosed. According to the method, in response to an attempt to boot  
the data processing system utilizing a boot device, the boot device is interrogated for a  
password. If the boot device supplies password information corresponding to that of a  
trusted boot device, the data processing system boots utilizing the boot device. If, however,  
10           the boot device does not supply password information corresponding to that of a trusted boot  
device, booting from the boot device is inhibited. In a preferred embodiment, the password  
information comprises a unique combination of the boot device's manufacturer-supplied  
model and serial numbers.

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